

# HUD-VASH Iowa Programs

## Overview

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics. HUD-VASH, authorized pursuant to the Appropriations Act, 2008.

Generally, the HUD-VASH HCV is administered in accordance with regular HCV program requirements (**24 CFR Section 982**). However, the Act allows HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that HUD administers in connection with this program in order to effectively deliver and administer HUD-VASH voucher assistance. The HUD-VASH Operating Requirements (including the waivers and alternative requirements from HCV program rules) were published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2008.

## HUD and VA

HUD and VA work together on the US Interagency Council on Homelessness and have established the nation's largest supported permanent housing initiative. HUD-VA High Priority Goal to place 30,000 Veterans in HUD-VASH permanent housing by June 30, 2012.

## Family Eligibility

Eligible families are homeless veterans who the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) will refer to the local Housing Authority (HA) for the issuance of a voucher. The VASH families are not subject to the waiting list or the HA preferences. The VAMC screens all families in accordance with their screening criteria. The HA relinquishes its authority to determine eligibility in accordance with regular HCV rules. Only exception is if a household member is on the lifetime sex offender registration. The HA determines income eligibility. At the time of admission, PHAs may not determine eligibility or deny assistance for the following: Homeless status; Money owed to the PHA; Criminal or Drug activity (Applies to all family members).

## VA Eligibility Criteria

The Veteran must be: eligible for VA Health Care; Homeless per McKinney Vento definition (as amended by The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009); and Needs and agrees to participate in case management. Eligibility does not include: Prior treatment or other homeless programs; Treatment compliance; Period of sobriety; Income verification by VA; Criminal Background Check.

## Housing Placement

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Contract issued by PHA to the landlord following passing unit inspection

If indicated, case manager assists the Veteran and landlord to complete the lease prepare for the move by helping Veteran:

Turn on utilities; Obtain furnishings and supplies; plan and arrange move in.

## Housing First Approach

Offers permanent housing with treatment & supportive service to homeless individuals

Early engagement/low demand model

Few requirements for treatment participation prior to housing

A model that allows us to target and assist the most chronically homeless

Priority and focus is on housing

## Iowa HAs with VASH

Housing Authority	Total VASH
City of Sioux City Housing Authority	25
Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency	120
City of Iowa City Housing Authority	35
Municipal Housing Agency of Council Bluffs	10
Mason City Housing Authority	35
Davenport Housing Authority	15
Total Iowa VASH	240

Kathy Winter, Public Housing Revitalization Specialist, Office of Public Housing, U.S. Dept. of HUD  
210 Walnut Street, #239, Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-284-4315; [Kathy.R.Winter@hud.gov](mailto:Kathy.R.Winter@hud.gov)

VASH Fact Sheet <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHudVashProgram>

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